

UNDER THE IRON CROSS

THOSE who know Germany agree that the articles written by the London Times' so-called neutral correspondent have been by far the most enlightening regarding the real situation within the kaiser's empire. The correspondent found many entire shops in Berlin converted into centers for providing food and delicacies for soldiers at the front. Of the placing of food in tubes he says:

"The food was specially prepared and placed in metal tubes with screw capsules of the same kind as are fitted to ordinary vaseline or lanoline tubes. There were 1 lb., ½ lb. and ¼ lb. tubes, containing butter, lard, honey, marmalade, jams, preserved cream, semi-liquid meat extracts—in short, every kind of nourishment that can be reduced to a consistency suitable for such a packing.

"In the same shops there were large stocks of ready-made cardboard boxes of various sizes, each bearing a printed label to be filled in with the name and military number of the addressee. The necessary string was attached to each box. The sender has only to buy the tubes, put them into the right sized box, fill in the label, tie the string, and leave the parcel. Next day, or at latest within forty-eight hours, the soldier at the front receives the gift, if he is still there. It would be impossible to supply him with food from home in a handier way. He can easily carry the tube with him in the field. He has but to unscrew the capsule, to press out the amount he wants, close the tube again, and put it in his pocket. It is clean, and he needs no utensils. In the trenches and other advanced positions it is particularly valuable.

"These tubes and cardboard boxes of regulation size are obtainable all over the country. They are sent by hundreds of thousands daily to the troops, and I saw many letters from soldiers at the front saying that they had never been so well cared for in their lives."

Merchants are taking advantage of the war spirit in every possible way to exploit goods. The Iron Cross is used as a symbol to force the sale of many articles. It is found as a trade-mark on the most unlikely wares. Brooches, rings, pendants, bracelets, watches, spoons and knives bear the symbol.

Children eat chocolate in the shape of an Iron Cross and play with Iron Cross balls. An establishment in Hanover even shows nightshirts embroidered with the German decoration. So widespread has the use of the Iron Cross become that a movement of protest against the abuse of the symbol which is the highest military reward, is growing.

War books, pamphlets and maps fill the windows of every book shop in Germany. In at least one appears an "Art Guide for the German Soldier," a richly illustrated pocket volume.

"I wondered," writes the correspondent, "why the German soldier in the field should need instruction in art, but my curiosity turned to stupor when I found that the pictures and buildings reproduced or illustrated were those of Belgium, northern France and western Russia. The compiler of this remarkable guide book did not take the soldier further than Paris in the west and Moscow in the east. He showed them the art treasures of Paris, with the admiration and 'detachment' of the real art lover. The cathedral at Rheims and the beautiful mediaeval buildings in the Flemish cities were also among the objects illustrated. In Russia the wonder of the Kremlin were alluringly placed before the soldiers' eyes."

"Haendler und Helden" (Traders and Heroes), a new book by Werner Sombart, professor of political economy, is dedicated to "our young heroes facing the foe." The introductory chapter,

headed "Der Glaubenskrieg" (The War of Faith), recites that all wars have been and will be wars of faith; that in this respect there is no difference between religious conflicts of the Middle Ages and modern wars which arise out of economic interests or ambition for power.

"Professor Sombart calls the war a holy war for Germany," says the correspondent. "He tells the soldiers that around the central war there are incidental episodic struggles, such as the Franco-German war for the possession of Alsace-Lorraine, the Russo-Turkish war for the mastery of the Dardanelles and the Russo-Austrian war for predominance in the Balkans. But the real, central war, he claims, is being waged between 'Western European civilization,' the 'ideals of 1789' and German military culture, which the enemy denounces as 'German barbarism.' He develops this thesis in order to show that the center point of the world struggle is that between 'the shopkeeper and the hero,' between the mercenary and the heroic spirit. The two peoples which most definitely represent these conflicting spirits are the British and the Germans. Only as an Anglo-German war does the world of 1914 attain its deep historic significance."

The correspondent found Houston Chamberlain, author of "The Foundations of the Nineteenth Century," said to be the kaiser's favorite book, on the Wagner culture committee. Chamberlain, called a renegade Englishman, the writer says, "recently received from the kaiser the Iron Cross, 'to be worn on a white ribbon,' in recognition of his services as an anti-English essayist. His latest work, 'New War Essays,' contains a paper on 'England and Germany,' which is being distributed in neutral countries by hundreds of thousands, in an English translation, and has been published in a special cheap 'trench edition.' This edition is issued 'in order to make the opinions of one of the best educated Englishmen acces-

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